

projects earn a typical wage. Otherwise the large size of Federal contracts can overwhelm a local labor market lead to bidding wars that drive wages down. Indeed, Representative Davis and Senator Bacon were Republicans who wanted to protect local contractors, who would not be able to compete in such a price war.

Workers who take these jobs will already face special hazards. Each day the administration reveals more details about workers' exposure to elevated levels of *e.coli*, toxic chemicals from flooded Superfund sites, and contaminants from massive oil spills. These workers should not have to suffer below-market wages, too.

But the President apparently believes that workers in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and parts of Florida don't even deserve to earn a decent wage for a day's work. He would have you believe that Davis-Bacon wages are exorbitant—nothing could be further from the truth. Indeed, in areas affected by Katrina, some typical wages include: \$9.16 per hour sheet metal workers, in Pearl River County, MS, \$10.00 per hour for laborers in Livingston Parish, LA, \$8.54 hour for truck-drivers in Mobile County, AL. And Federal spending post-Hurricane Katrina should be lifting workers up, not forcing them into a race to the bottom.

I urge the Congress to reverse the President's decision and to stand with the hardworking men and women of the gulf coast as they rebuild their towns and their lives.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 245—RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF SIMON WIESENTHAL

Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. COLEMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. REID, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. KOHL, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. DODD, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. SMITH, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. CARPER, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BURR, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. TALENT, Mr. CONRAD, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. LEAHY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 245

Whereas Simon Wiesenthal was born on December 31, 1908, to Jewish merchants in Buczac, in what is now the Lvov Oblast section of the Ukraine;

Whereas after he was denied admission to the Polytechnic Institute in Lvov because of quota restrictions on Jewish students,

Simon Wiesenthal received his degree in engineering from the Technical University of Prague in 1932;

Whereas Simon Wiesenthal worked in an architectural office until he was forced to close his business and become a mechanic in a bedspring factory, following the Russian army's occupation of Lvov and purge of Jewish professionals;

Whereas following the Germany occupation of Ukraine in 1941, Simon Wiesenthal was initially detained in the Janwska concentration camp near Lvov, after which he and his wife were assigned to the forced labor camp serving the Ostbahn Works, which was the repair shop for Lvov's Eastern Railroad;

Whereas in August of 1942, Simon Wiesenthal's mother was sent to the Belzec death camp as part of Nazi Germany's "Final Solution", and by the end of the next month 89 of his relatives had been killed;

Whereas with the help of the Polish Underground Simon Wiesenthal was able to help his wife escape the Ostbahn camp in 1942, and in 1943 was himself able to escape just before German guards began executing inmates, but he was recaptured the following year and sent to the Janwska camp;

Whereas following the collapse of the German eastern front, the SS guards at Janwska took Simon Wiesenthal and the remaining camp survivors and joined the westward retreat from approaching Russian forces;

Whereas Simon Wiesenthal was 1 of the few survivors of the retreat to Mauthausen, Austria and was on the brink of death, weighing only 99 pounds, when Mauthausen was liberated by American forces on May 5, 1945;

Whereas after surviving 12 Nazi prison camps, including 5 death camps, Wiesenthal chose not to return to his previous occupation, and instead dedicated himself to finding Nazi war criminals and bringing them to justice;

Whereas following the liberation of Mauthausen, Simon Wiesenthal began collecting evidence of Nazi activity for the War Crimes Section of the United States Army, and after the war continued these efforts for the Army's Office of Strategic Services and Counter-Intelligence Corps;

Whereas Simon Wiesenthal would also go on to head the Jewish Central Committee of the United States Zone of Austria, a relief and welfare organization;

Whereas Simon Wiesenthal and his wife were reunited in 1945, and had a daughter the next year;

Whereas the evidence supplied by Wiesenthal was utilized in the United States Zone war crime trials;

Whereas, after concluding his work with the United States Army in 1947, Simon Wiesenthal and others opened and operated the Jewish Historical Documentation Center in Linz, Austria, for the purpose of assembling evidence for future Nazi trials, before closing the office and providing its files to the Yad Vashem Archives in Israel in 1954;

Whereas despite his heavy involvement in relief work and occupational education for Soviet refugees, Simon Wiesenthal tenaciously continued his pursuit of Adolf Eichmann, who had served as the head of the Gestapo's Jewish Department and supervised the implementation of the "Final Solution";

Whereas in 1953, Simon Wiesenthal acquired evidence that Adolf Eichmann was living in Argentina and passed this information to the Government of Israel;

Whereas this information, coupled with information about Eichmann's whereabouts in Argentina provided to Israel by Germany in 1959, led to Eichmann's capture by Israeli agents, trial and conviction in Israel, and execution on May 31, 1961;

Whereas following Eichmann's capture, Wiesenthal opened a new Jewish Documentation Center in Vienna, Austria, for the purpose of collecting and analyzing information to aid in the location and apprehension of war criminals;

Whereas Karl Silberbauer, the Gestapo officer who arrested Anne Frank, Franz Stangl, the commandant of the Treblinka and Sobibor concentration camps in Poland, and Hermine Braunsteiner, who had supervised the killings of several hundred children at Majdanek, are among the approximately 1,100 war criminals found and brought to justice as a result of Simon Wiesenthal's investigative, analytical, and undercover operations;

Whereas Simon Wiesenthal bravely forged ahead with his mission of promoting tolerance and justice in the face of danger and resistance, including numerous threats and the bombing of his home in 1982;

Whereas the Simon Wiesenthal Center was established in 1977, to focus on the prosecution of Nazi war criminals, commemorate the events of the Holocaust, teach tolerance education, and promote Middle East affairs;

Whereas the Simon Wiesenthal Center monitors and combats the growth of neo-Nazi activity in Europe and keeps watch over concentration camp sites to ensure that the memory of the Holocaust and the sanctity of those sites are preserved;

Whereas the Simon Wiesenthal Center played a pivotal role in convincing foreign governments to pass laws enabling the prosecution of Nazi war criminals;

Whereas throughout his lifetime, Simon Wiesenthal has had many honors and awards bestowed upon him, including decorations from the Austrian and French resistance movements, the Dutch Freedom Medal, the Luxembourg Freedom Medal, the United Nations League for the Help of Refugees Award, the French Legion of Honor, and the United States Congressional Gold Medal, which was presented to him by President James Carter in 1980;

Whereas President Ronald W. Reagan once remarked, "For what Simon Wiesenthal represents are the animating principles of Western civilization since the day Moses came down from Sinai: the idea of justice, the idea of laws, the idea of the free will.";

Whereas President George H. W. Bush has stated that Simon Wiesenthal, "is our living embodiment of remembrance. The two pledges of Simon Wiesenthal's life inspire us all — 'Never forget' and 'Never again'.";

Whereas President William Clinton has remarked of Simon Wiesenthal, "To those who know his story, one of miraculous survival and of relentless pursuit of justice, the answer is apparent. From the unimaginable horrors of the Holocaust, only a few voices survived, to bear witness, to hold the guilty accountable, to honor the memory of those who were killed. Only if we heed these brave voices can we build a bulwark of humanity against the hatred and indifference that is still all too prevalent in this world of ours.";

and

Whereas, at the end of a life dedicated to the pursuit of justice and advocacy for victims of the Holocaust, Simon Wiesenthal passed away on September 20, 2005, at the age of 96: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses its most sincere condolences to the family and friends of Simon Wiesenthal;

(2) recognizes the life and accomplishments of Simon Wiesenthal, who, after surviving the Holocaust, spent more than 50 years helping to bring Nazi war criminals to justice and was a vigorous opponent of anti-Semitism, neo-Nazism, and racism; and

(3) recognizes and commends Simon Wiesenthal's legacy of promoting tolerance, his tireless efforts to bring about justice, and the continuing pursuit of these ideals.

SENATE RESOLUTION 246—TO EXPRESS THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE MISSIONS AND PERFORMANCE OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD IN RESPONDING TO HURRICANE KATRINA

Ms. SNOWE (for herself, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. INOUE, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. LOTT, and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 246

Whereas the United States Coast Guard has been charged by Congress with missions central to protecting the lives and well-being of individuals and communities in the United States, including protecting homeland security, conducting search and rescue of lives in danger, protecting marine environments from pollution, maintaining maritime safety and aids to navigation, enforcing Federal fishing laws, and intercepting illegal drugs and migrants before they reach our shores;

Whereas the Coast Guard anticipated the potential for significant loss of life and property as Hurricane Katrina approached Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama and made landfall on August 29, 2005 and, in advance of the storm, relocated its personnel, vessels, and aircraft out of harm's way;

Whereas Hurricane Katrina made landfall as a Category 4 hurricane with winds reaching 175 miles per hour and massive storm surges, the combination of which left a trail of devastation unprecedented on United States soil, as it leveled countless homes, businesses, and other structures, displaced millions of people from their communities, and otherwise made coastal urban and rural areas unliveable;

Whereas the Coast Guard immediately deployed nearly 1,000 personnel, including captains, crew, pilots, rescue swimmers, pollution response teams, and other specialists and reservists, from stations all over the country, to coastal areas affected by the hurricane, for a total regional force size of approximately 3,619 personnel;

Whereas Coast Guard personnel who had never personally worked together before began to work as teams to conduct and coordinate search and rescue operations while Hurricane Katrina continued to bear down on the central Gulf of Mexico shoreline;

Whereas the Coast Guard rescued or evacuated 33,544 individuals as of September 21, 2005, a number that represents eight times the number of lives saved by the Coast Guard in an average year;

Whereas three Coast Guard pollution response Strike Teams responded to 1,129 pollution incidents as of September 20, 2005, which include total discharges of more than 7 million gallons of oil, unknown amounts of sewage, and unknown quantities of other toxic chemicals, and the Coast Guard has contained or otherwise closed 426 of these cases;

Whereas Coast Guard buoy tenders have responded to 964 discrepancies in buoys and other aids to navigation and have restored 39 of 48 critical aids to navigation as of September 21, 2005;

Whereas the costs of responding to Hurricane Katrina have depleted the Coast Guard's operations and maintenance budget for fiscal year 2005 and are rapidly depleting

its budget for fiscal year 2006, and the Coast Guard's costs associated with this hurricane are anticipated to exceed \$500 million;

Whereas the Coast Guard performed its hurricane response missions largely with outdated legacy assets, increasing the wear and tear on these assets while foregoing regularly scheduled maintenance activities in the interest of sustaining its surge in life-saving operations;

Whereas the Coast Guard already conducts its missions with the 40th oldest fleet of the 42 nations with Coast Guard or naval fleets;

Whereas the Coast Guard's program, known as Deepwater, for modernizing its fleet of vessels and aircraft, is vital for increasing the capabilities in performing its missions in the face of ever-increasing natural and human threats;

Whereas the Deepwater program requires sustained Federal funding commitments in order for the citizens of the United States to realize the benefits of the Coast Guard having state-of-the-art vessels, aircraft, technologies, and interoperable communication equipment;

Whereas in addition to covering operation and maintenance costs of a rapidly aging fleet, the Coast Guard needs to rebuild several Coast Guard facilities in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama, including Station Gulfport which was completely destroyed and where personnel are now working in trailers amidst the ruins of that station;

Whereas the Coast Guard needs a strong Federal funding commitment to ensure that all of its unexpected expenditures during its response to Katrina are reimbursed;

Whereas more than 700 Coast Guard personnel stationed in the Gulf region lost their homes and all personal property and are now living on overcrowded Coast Guard vessels and in makeshift shelters;

Whereas before, during, and after the landfall of Hurricane Katrina, Coast Guard personnel exhibited determination and a full commitment to their missions, and the Coast Guard has proven to be one of the most resourceful and capable services in the United States government;

Whereas before, during, and after the landfall of Hurricane Katrina, Coast Guard personnel performed their missions with the highest level of bravery and self-sacrifice, and their effectiveness in performing their missions is unparalleled in the United States government;

Whereas the Coast Guard has an operational and command structure that allowed it to quickly take a leadership role in saving lives, without waiting for instruction or permission to act;

Whereas the Coast Guard's operational and command structure continues to serve as a model for other agencies that need to respond quickly to large-scale natural and man-made disasters;

Whereas the Coast Guard's effective leadership in responding to the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, and the appointment of Vice Admiral Thad Allen as the primary Federal officer in charge of this response, is helping to restore the public's confidence in the Federal response effort: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the Senate That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the United States Coast Guard should receive Congress's highest commendation for its tremendous and highly effective response to the events surrounding Hurricane Katrina;

(2) the United States Congress should commit to providing the Coast Guard with the resources it needs to modernize and maintain its fleet of vessels and aircraft; and

(3) the Administration should ensure that the Coast Guard receives sufficient funding

to cover its unexpected operational and capital costs associated with Hurricane Katrina.

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today to commend and praise the extraordinary response of the U.S. Coast Guard to Hurricane Katrina, to demonstrate why that response exemplifies the imperative of providing that service with the modern assets required to carry out these lifesaving missions, and to submit a resolution recognizing the awe-inspiring efforts of the men and women of the U.S. Coast Guard.

I just visited the gulf coast region on Monday with the Commandant of the Coast Guard, Tom Collins, and we were guided by Eighth District Commander ADM Robert Duncan. What I saw and heard on that day is a story of heroism and a relentless can-do attitude that is nothing short of miraculous. The human spirit I witnessed was truly transcendent and a level I had never before experienced.

As we well know, Hurricane Katrina was the worst natural disaster ever to visit itself upon the United States, with an almost unimaginable magnitude of devastation and loss. The scale of the destruction has been most horrifically reflected in the faces of those we have seen over the past week, faces etched with an indelible and almost unimaginable sorrow, suffering, and burden. Their images have reverberated throughout a country in solidarity with their terrible plight. In Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama lives have been forever transformed along with the landscape, as we have witnessed untold scenes of homes that no longer exist, floods that ravaged entire neighborhoods and cities, fires that consumed what remains of buildings, and men, women, and children missing loved ones. We have also seen and heard the stories of those individuals who have rushed to the aid of our fellow man, demonstrating that no human or natural act can deprive us of our unyielding and singularly determined spirit. While the hurricane winds and rain have long since dissipated—and now we have anticipation of Hurricane Rita—we all have the collective concern and strength of this Nation that continues unabated, unbroken, undaunted, and unflagging.

We must now bring to bear all of our collective will and resources over what will undoubtedly be a long but ultimately victorious process of reclaiming the gulf coast towns and cities for the future. I extend my thoughts and prayers to my colleagues, Senators COCHRAN, LOTT, SESSIONS, SHELBY, LANDRIEU, and VITTER, as they work to guide their constituents and their families through these most difficult of times. I will certainly do everything I can to assist them and the citizens of their States.

Today, as chair of the Fisheries and Coast Guard Subcommittee, I believe it is entirely appropriate to focus the Nation's attention on the performance of the U.S. Coast Guard in response to Hurricane Katrina, as I believe it is an